

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 03793 100903Z

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

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CDR MICOM REDSTONE ARSENAL AL

S E C R E T KUWAIT 3793

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, KU

SUBJECT: KUWAIT IHAWK PROGRAM (U)

REF: DA 062115ZAUG76 (NOTAL)

1. REFTEL REQUESTED EMBASSY COMMENTS ON TWO DA PROPOSED
OPTIONS TO ASSIST IN RESOLVING THE ISSUE OF THE EGYPTIAN
AIR DEFENSE ADVISORS IN KUWAIT. OPTIONS PROPOSED WERE:
A. SUSPEND THE CLASSIFIED ASPECTS OF THE PROGRAM FOR
A SIX-MONTH PERIOD;
B. SUSPEND THE EGYPTIAN PARTICIPATION FOR A SIX-MONTH
PERIOD. DURING THIS SUSPENSION, ALL CLASSIFIED ASPECTS OF
THE PROGRAM WILL BE CONDUCTED DIRECTLY WITH THE KUWAITIS,
ASSISTED BY U.S. ADVISORY PERSONNEL IN A TDY STATUS.

2. ANY FULL RESPONSE TO REFTEL WOULD HAVE TO DEAL WITH
BOTH POLITICAL AND TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF PROBLEM.
POLITICAL ASPECT IS ALREADY BEING ADDRESSED BY DEPTS OF
STATE AND DEFENSE. THEREFORE, EMBASSY WILL CONFINE ITS
COMMENTS WHICH FOLLOW TO TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF QUESTION.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 KUWAIT 03793 100903Z

3. THE THREE EGYPTIAN OFFICERS HAVE BEEN AIR DEFENSE

ADVISORS TO THE KAF FOR OVER TWO YEARS. DURING THIS PERIOD, THEY HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN ABLE TO ESTABLISH THEMSELVES WITH THE MOD TO THE EXTENT THAT THEY HAVE EMERGED AS THE DOMINANT INFLUENCE ON ALL TECHNICAL AND TACTICAL DECISIONS INVOLVING THE IHAWK SYSTEM. (FYI: AS HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, THE KAF HAVE VIRTUALLY NO ONE, EXCLUDING THE EGYPTIANS, WITH ANY EXPERTISE IN AIR DEFENSE MATTERS. END FYI.) ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS TO THE EFFECT THAT EGYPTIAN ADVISORS MIGHT BE REMOVED OR REPLACED, ALMOST DAILY CONTACT WITH THE EGYPTIANS BY DOD PERSONNEL HAS PRODUCED NO EVIDENCE OR OUTWARD SIGNS BY THE EGYPTIANS TO SUBSTANTIATE THESE REPORTS. IF PRESENT ADVISORS WERE TO DEPART, WE BELIEVE THEY WOULD BE REPLACED BY OTHER QUALIFIED EGYPTIAN ADVISORS AS PART OF A NORMAL TRANSFER PROCESS.

3. WITH THE ABOVE IN MIND, WE DO NOT CONSIDER EITHER PROPOSED OPTION TO BE TECHNICALLY FEASIBLE. OF THE TWO OPTIONS, OPTION A IS THE LEAST UNDESIRABLE, BUT ONLY BECAUSE THE PROGRAM HAS BEEN ABLE TO PROCEED SO FAR (NOT WITHOUT DIFFICULTY) WITHOUT THE NECESSITY FOR DISCUSSING CLASSIFIED INFORMATION WITH THE EGYPTIANS. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT THIS SITUATION MUST COME TO AN END VERY SOON IF THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE IHAWK IS TO TAKE PLACE AS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED. MOREOVER, WE BELIEVE FOLLOWING FACTORS ALSO SUPPORT THIS POSITION:

A. THE TSP-32 RADAR INTERFACE WITH THE TSQ 73 AND THE CLUTTER MAPPER PROBLEMS MUST BE RESOLVED SOON. THE UPCOMING MICOM SPONSORED COMPATIBILITY TEST IN CALIFORNIA (16-27 AU&) WILL HOPEFULLY PROVIDE SOME TANGIBLE EVIDENCE WHICH CAN BE USED IN THE RESOLUTION OF BOTH PROBLEMS. GOK REPRESENTATION AT THIS TEST IS HIGHLY DESIRABLE. WE BELIEVE THAT THE GOK WILL WANT AT LEAST ONE OF THEIR EGYPTIAN AIR DEFENSE EXPERTS TO ATTEND.

B. THE SEMIANNUAL IHAWK PROGRAM REVIEW WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO BE CONDUCTED AT REDSTONE ARSENAL DURING JULY. SUBJECTS OF A CLASSIFIED NATURE WOULD PRESUMABLY BE DISCUSSED AT THIS REVIEW. THE EGYPTIANS ARE AWARE OF THIS REVIEW (THEY ATTENDED THE LAST REVIEW IN KUWAIT) AND ARE ANTICIPATING ATTENDING. THEY ARE HAVING DIFFICULTY

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 KUWAIT 03793 100903Z

UNDERSTANDING THE REASONS FOR THE DELAY. IT IS, OF COURSE, POSSIBLE TO CONDUCT THE REVIEW WITHOUT THE EGYPTIANS.

HOWEVER, SENDING ONLY KUWAITIS WOULD PROBABLY BE FRUITLESS SINCE THE EGYPTIANS ARE THE ONLY ONES WITH ANY IN-DEPTH KNOWLEDGE OF THE PROGRAM. MOREOVER, SPECIFICALLY TO EXCLUDE THE EGYPTIANS FROM A FORMAL INVITATION WOULD BE REGARDED AS BLATANT US INTERFERENCE IN KUWAITI MILITARY

AFFAIRS, SINCE EGYPTIANS ARE SECONDED AS KUWAITI OFFICERS, AND WOULD IMMEDIATELY RAISE ALL THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS CURRENTLY BEING ADDRESSED.

C. THE MATTER OF SITE SELECTION MUST BE FINALIZED SOON IF THE GOK DESIRES TO HAVE COVERED OR PROTECTED FIRING SITES WITHIN ANY REASONABLE TIME FRAME AFTER DEPLOYMENT. THUS FAR WE HAVE PROVIDED THE KADF WITH ONLY AN UNCLASSIFIED VERSION OF THE ANALYSIS OF SURVIVABILITY OF IHAWKS IN KUWAIT. KADF REPRESENTATIVES HAVE INDICATED THAT NO DECISION AS TO THE TYPE OF DESIRED SITE OR LOCATION CAN BE MADE UNTIL THE CLASSIFIED OPERATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE IHAWK ARE PROVIDED. AGAIN, THE ONLY KADF REPRESENTATIVES CURRENTLY AVAILABLE CAPABLE OF ANALYZING THIS INFORMATION ARE THE EGYPTIANS. CONSIDERING NORMAL CONSTRUCTION LEAD TIMES, THIS PROBLEM SHOULD BE RESOLVED WITHIN THE NEXT 90 DAYS.

D. ONE OF THE TWO COMMERCIALY PURCHASED TPS-32 RADARS IS IN OPERATION. BECAUSE OF ITS PLANNED ROLE IN THE AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM, THE EGYPTIANS HAVE A VITAL INTEREST IN ALL ASPECTS OF ITS OPERATION. THUS FAR, BECAUSE OF THE EGYPTIANS, WE HAVE NOT PROVIDED THE KADF WITH THE CLASSIFIED MANUALS ON THIS RADAR. KADF PERSONNEL CONTINUE TO ASK FOR THESE MANUALS BUT WE HAVE REFRAINED FROM RELEASING THEM. THESE MANUALS ARE NEEDED BY THE KADF FULLY TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN THESE RADARS.

4. OPTION B RAISES ALMOST AS MANY SERIOUS POLITICAL PROBLEMS FOR US - KUWAIT RELATIONS AS THE TOTAL AND PERMANENT EXCLUSION OF THE EGYPTIAN ADVISORS FROM THE IHAWK SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS. FROM THE TECHNICAL POINT OF VIEW, IT DOES NOT SEEM TO MAKE MUCH PRACTICAL SENSE EITHER.

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PAGE 04 KUWAIT 03793 100903Z

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